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DOWNED PILOT WAS AIR FORCE FLYER 4 YEARS

No Combat, Foreign Service on Record

Washington, May 7 (AP)—The air force disclosed Saturday that Francis Gary Powers, the pilot downed over Russian territory and held as an alleged spy, served less than four years as an air force pilot and that his service included no combat or extensive overseas duty.

The records showed that Powers, a native of Jenkins, Ky., now a resident of Albany, Ga., entered the air force as a private in October, 1950, soon after he received his bachelor degree from Milligan college in Tennessee. His parents live at Mill Creek, Va.

In Virginia, his father, Oliver W. Powers, 55, who runs a shoe repair shop, said it was "wonderful news" to

Powers was graduated from the air force pilot training school at Greenville Air Force base, Miss., in December, 1952, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the air force reserve.

He was given advance training at Williams Air Force base, Chandler, Ariz., and jet training at Luke Air Force base, Phoenix, Ariz., finishing in June, 1953. Powers was later assigned as an F-84 jet pilot with the 468th strategic fighter squadron at Turner Air Force base, Ga.

Trip to Japan

According to the air force, Powers resigned his reserve commission in May, 1956, stating in his resignation that he wished to seek employment with civilian industry.

"He had no combat experience and no overseas service altho while on active duty he made one short temporary duty trip to Japan," the air force said. "He had only one award, which was the national defense service medal, awarded to all military persons who saw active duty during the Korean war."

The record showed he was born in Jenkins Aug. 17, 1929. He attended high school in Grundy, Va., graduating in 1947. When he entered the air force he was a resident of Pound, Va.



Mrs. Francis G. Powers

learn that his son had been reported alive in Moscow by Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Commissioned in 1952

He was discharged as a corporal in November, 1951. He later entered the air force pilot training program.